

Message Text

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TO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

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TAGS: PFOR, IS

SUBJECT: MIDDLE EAST PEACE CONFERENCE

REF: GENEVA 6783

1. BOTH GENERAL GUR AND COLONEL SION ARE CLOSELY IDENTIFIED WITH MOSHE DAYAN. GUR WAS BEING SPOKEN OF LAST SUMMER AS THE "POLITICIANS" (DAYAN AND MEIR) CHOICE TO BECOME CHIEF-OF-STAFF WHILE SION, OF COURSE, IS DAYAN'S SON-IN-LAW. FOR HIS PRESENT TASK, GUR HAS SOUND BACKGROUND PROVIDED BY HIS CAREER WHICH INCLUDED HEAVY DOSE OF COMMAND EXPERIENCE IN FIELD, DEALING EFFECTIVELY WITH ARABS AS MILITARY GOVERNOR OF GAZA STRIP, AND WORKING AS DIPLOMAT IN UN AND, MOST RECENTLY AS MILITARY ATTACHE IN WASHINGTON. SION, WHO WAS WITH YARIV AT KILOMETER 101, HAS SPENT MOST OF HIS CAREER IN STAFF FUNCTIONS, EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, AND WORKING FOR FOREIGN MINISTRY. HE SHOULD PROVIDE SOLID SUPPORT TO GUR IN GENEVA. GUR, THOUGH NOTED FOR CAREFULLY WEIGHING HIS OPTIONS AND AS BEING CLEVER STRATEGIST, WILL PROBABLY NOT EXERCISE GREAT DEAL OF INDEPENDENCE IN GENEVA, BUT WILL TAKE HIS LEAD DIRECTLY FROM DAYAN. BIOGRAPHIES ON TWO INDIVIDUALS FOLLOW.

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2. MAJGEN MORDECHAI GUR, 43, BECAME DEFENSE ATTACHE TO US JULY 1972. A STERN COMMANDER WHO HAS CALM, RATIONAL APPROACH TO PROBLEM SOLVING, GUR'S RISE THROUGH RANKS OF ISRAEL DEFENSE FORCES (IDF) HAS BEEN EXCEPTIONALLY RAPID. HE JOINED YOUTH SECTION OF HAGANAH IN 1945 AND HAS BEEN IN IDF SINCE 1948. GUR COMMANDED NAHAL PARATROOP BATTALION WHICH WAS AMBUSHED IN MITLA PASS IN 1956 AND WAS AN INSTRUCTOR IN IDF STAFF SCHOOL IN 1959. DURING 1961-63 HE COMMANDED GOLANI BRIGADE. IN 1967 HE LED PARATROOP BRIGADE WHICH CAPTURED EAST JERUSALEM. AFTER 1967 ARAB-ISRAELI WAR GUR WAS SENT AS SPECIAL MILITARY ADVISER TO ISRAEL DELEGATION AT UN. UPON HIS RETURN HE WAS APPOINTED MILITARY GOVERNOR OF GAZA STRIP AND NORTHERN SINAI. A MAN OF ACTION, GUR ACCEPTED THIS ADMINISTRATIVE POST WITH RELUCTANCE. DURING HIS TENURE, HOWEVER, HE MANAGED TO RESTORE SOME OF GAZAN ECONOMY AND TO WIN RESPECT OF GAZAN NOTABLES BY HIS FORTH-RIG*T, CANDID AND HONEST APPROACH. IT WAS DURING THIS TIME HE DEVELOPED A SMOOTH WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH DEFENSE MINISTER MOSHE DAYAN. GUR WAS COMMANDER OF NORTHERN COMMAND FROM 1969 TO 1972. GUR HAS BACHE*OR'S DEGREE IN MIDDLE EAST STUDIES FROM HEBREW UNIVERSITY; HE ALSO STUDIED AT FRENCH WAR COLLEGE IN 1958. GUR'S NICKNAME IS MOTTA. HE AND HIS W*FE RACHEL (RITA) HAVE 2 SONS AND 2 DAUGHTERS. GUR*HAS WRITTEN BOOK ON 1967 WAR. HE HAS ALSO AUTHORED FOUR POPULAR ISRAELI CHILDREN'S*BOOKS ABOUT FICTIONAL GERMAN SHEPARD MASCOT OF IS**ELI PARATROOPERS. GUR SPEAKS FLUENT ENGLISH AND SOME FRENCH.

3. COL. DOV SION, 53, HAS BEEN MILITARY ATTACHE IN PARIS SINCE SEPT 1968. HE IS ALSO ACCREDITED TO BELGIUM AND THE NETHERLANDS. HE PREVIOUSLY SERVED AS ISRAELI DEFENSE FORCES (IDF) LIAISON OFFICER WITH UN STAFF IN ISRAEL (1967-68). SION WAS BORN IN BEREZNI, CZECHOSLOVAKIA. HE JOINED HAGANAH IN 1940 AND SERVED IN BRITISH ARMY FROM 1943 TO 1947. HE JOINED IDF IN 1948 AND RECEIVED SOME INTELLIGENCE TRAINING. SION EARNED MASTER'S DEGREE IN LIBERAL ARTS FROM HEBREW UNIVERSITY IN 1950. DURING 1951-52 HE ATTENDED POST GRADUATE COURSE AT UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, ENGLAND. SION HELD VARIOUS IDF STAFF POSITIONS FROM 1949 TO *59. HE WAS AN ASSISTANT PARACHUTE BRIGADE *COMMANDER IN 1956. FROM CONFIDENTIAL

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1960 TO 1963 SION SERVED ABROAD FOR FOREIGN MINISTRY IN UNSPECIFIED POST. HE ATTENDED NATIONAL DEFENSE INSTITUTE OF HIGHER STUDIES FROM 1963-67. SION IS RELIABLE, INFORMED AND SERIOUS. HE IS MARRIED TO FORMER YAEL DAYAN, DAUGHTER OF DEFENSE MINISTER MOSHE DAYAN. COUPLE HAVE SON DAN, 5, AND DAUGHTER RACHEL, 2. KISSINGER

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